

Chartered October 26, 1925
Wednesday 12:00 noon
La Mesa Community Center
4975 Memorial Drive
La Mesa, CA 91942

Board Members

President Bonnie Welch
President-elect
Gabriella Misirlioglu
Past President
Becki Schwartz
Secretary Kathy Olsen
Treasurer Ryan Barnhill

Board Members

Directors

Dale Bailey
Marsha Darling
Mary Elington
Greg Erickson
Mike Fellows
Louise Herr-Marshall

Membership

Greg Erickson

Youth Service

Mark Matthews

Speaker Chair

Bill Ashman



GROSSMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE



We were privileged to have Pam Luster, Grossmont Community College (GCC) Interim President, as our guest today. GCC, founded in 1961, serves a diverse learning community of students, primarily from suburban locations in East San Diego County, and from City of San Diego neighborhoods, surrounding communities, as well as locations across the state, the nation other countries around the world. Grossmont with an enrollment of 15,000 each semester is the leading college with transfers to SDSU.

The Grossmont Cuyamaca College District has established the Promise Program which provides free tuition to eligible students. The Promise Program administers \$200,000 in scholarships each year. 35 -40% students take classes online with 10% doing only online courses.

Students can earn degrees and certificates in 71 different fields. Popular programs include Liberal Arts and Sciences/Liberal Studies, Business Administration and Management, General, and Biological and Physical Sciences. In fall 2025, Grossmont College launched the first of its kind Associate of Science Degree in Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI). Grossmont College's program is the only one that focuses on Applied AI, i.e. the practical applications of AI, and offers hands-on learning as opposed to theoretical learning. New programs on the horizon are the bachelor's degree in respiratory therapy and the Industrial Arts and Advanced Manufacturing degree. The Industrial Arts program will encompass welding for manufacturing as well as art welding.

Upcoming Programs

January 21, 2026

Club Level Instrumental Mustyc
Contest

February 11, 2026

Club Level 4-Way Speech Contest

Lunch Time Assignments

January 21, 2026

Greeter Ron Morrell
Pledge Marsha Darling
Thought Becki Schwartz
4 Way Test Mary Elington

January 28, 2026

Greeter Dale Bailey
Pledge Ron Morrell
Thought Marsha Darling
4 Way Test Mary Elington

February 4, 2026

Greeter Mike Fellows
Pledge Dale Bailey
Thought Kathy Olsen
4 Way Test Marsha Darling

Condolences

Our condolences to Becki Schwartz and family on the loss of her father, Harry Bair, on Friday, January 9th. Services are pending for some time in March.

January Birthdays

1/19 Martin Brickson

1/23 Steve Loser

1/30 Dale Bailey

Farewell



Guy Elam says his good-byes at the New Year Party. Guy and Mary have moved to a retirement community in the north county. Guy has resigned from our club and will be joining a club close to their new home.

Rotary Foundation News

Paul Harris Society Member



President-elect Gabriela Misirlioglu is recognized by Foundation Chair, Mike Fellows, with her second Paul Harris Fellow. Gabriela is also recognized as the newest member of the Paul Harris Society.

Major Donor Level 3



Foundation Chair, Mike Fellows, presented Mary Elington with her Major Donor Level 3 pin at today's meeting.

Rotary Foundation News

As of December 31, 2025, our club is first in District 5340 for per capita giving for Rotary Year 2025- 26. Our current per capita giving is \$937.54.

John Fistere, Jr.



Mike Whitehurst, DRFC Chair, recognized John and Teresa in the latest District Foundation Newsletter this month. John and Teresa left an estate gift to continue Rotary projects. Mike recognized John as a quiet leader who helped shape the charitable impact of Rotary District 5340.

John served in numerous Rotary Foundation and Stewardship roles at the district level.

Rotary Club of La Mesa New Year Party



Martha & Jay Thompson



Ryan & Heather Barnhill



Marsha Starr & Friend



Bill & Bonnie Ashman



Louise & David



Dale Bailey



Martin Brickson



Mark Matthews & Dindingers



Chris Fellows, Nancy Louise Herr-Marshall Matthews, & Mary Elam



Mary England & Maggie Eggers



Service Opportunities

Event	Date/Time	Location
High School Instrumental Music Competition	January 21, 2026	
4 Way Speech Contest	February 11, 2026	
Epic Day of Service	January 22, 2026 Zoom Meeting	See Bonnie for more info
Dostrict 5340 Foundation Dinner Register on District Website	February 12, 2026; 5- 9 PM	The Secret Garden 17025 Avenida De Acacias Rancho Santa Fe